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A METHOD *of* PREPARING *a* SULPHUREOUS  
MEDICINAL WATER. *By the Rev.* EDWARD  
KENNEY.

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CHEMISTS differ in opinion concerning the process of nature in the formation of sulphureous waters. Whilst all agree that sulphur by itself is not soluble in water, some consider sulphureous waters as impregnated by the fumes only of sulphur: Others assert that these waters contain sulphur combined with an alkali; and each party thinks, and possibly justly, that its opinion respecting particular waters is supported by the analyzation of them. Artificial sulphureous waters have often been prepared on the former of these principles; and they have been prepared on the two principles combined by M. Le Roy of Montpellier, who applied a strong and continued heat to water mixed with small quantities of sulphur and magnesia, until the fumes of the sulphur had strongly impregnated the water.

Read April 6,  
1793.

My method is founded on the second principle. Its simplicity, and the probability that it is similar to that pursued by nature in the formation of some of the most powerful sulphureous waters, induced me to make trial of it. The same considerations may possibly be deemed by gentlemen of the medical faculty a recommendation of this artificial medicinal water for trial in the course of their practice.

THE method is this: Mix sulphur and magnesia, in the proportion of four drachms of each, with one quart of cold water. Care must be taken that every particle of the sulphur and magnesia be made so wet as that none shall float. Pour this mixture into a vessel in which it may be conveniently shaken several times every day during the space of three weeks. Let it then settle for two days, and rack off the Liquor. This, first racked off from the sulphur and magnesia, will be of the colour of water, and free from any bad smell. If a like quantity of water be poured into the vessel in which the magnesia and sulphur remain, and be frequently shaken, it will in a fortnight be found to be as strongly impregnated as the former; and in like manner may many successive impregnated liquors be obtained; but they will differ from the first in having a yellow tinge and emitting a foetid odour. However, in their component parts and medicinal properties, all these impregnated liquors seem to me, from the trials I have made of them, perfectly to agree. These liquors almost instantly change the colour of silver. They are most effectually decomposed by powdered nutgalls and alum, the alum being added  
a few

a few minutes after the nutgall. In this process a very copious precipitation ensues.

FLOWERS of sulphur and magnesia are to be mixed with water in the proportion of four drachms of each to a quart of water. They should previously be ground together in a glass mortar, for the purpose of breaking all the small lumps of sulphur which would otherwise float on the water. They should then be gradually wetted with the water, and worked up with it by the hand. When so mixed, as that none of the sulphur floats, the whole is to be poured into a close vessel, in which it may conveniently be shaken two or three times every day for three weeks. After that time it is to settle for two days, and then the liquid to be racked off fine. The same ingredients will impregnate the like quantity of water two or three times, to an equal degree of strength, in a space of time somewhat shorter than the first.

N. B. I have not found that the finest, light, white, magnesia, succeeds as well as a darker and heavier sort.

THE liquid thus racked off contains in solution what may be named a magnesiatic liver of sulphur.

SOME powdered nutgalls being mixed with this liquid, and afterwards some alum, the water is by their stiptic quality rendered incapable of holding the magnesiatic liver of sulphur in solution: the latter is therefore precipitated, but not decomposed.

ONE

ONE ounce of this solution of magnesiæ liver of sulphur, mixt with a quart of pure water free from any stiptic or acid mixture, makes a medicinal sulphureous water fit for use. If an acid be added to it, it decomposes the liver of sulphur, uniting with the magnesiæ to form a sal catharticus amarus. Fixed air would therefore be an improper addition to this medicinal water.

A GROWN person may take of this medicinal water, at first, half a noggin twice in the day; and gradually increase the quantity to three noggins in the day. I have not known it to cause the head-ach in any person except myself; and I have always been immediately relieved by taking six grains of camphor and six drops of ether in honey and water.

I HAVE had ample experience of the efficacy of this medicinal water in the cure of those disorders which are sometimes called the land scurvy, and sometimes said to proceed from impurities of the blood; such as eruptions on the head; the herpes exedens; a white, dry, scaly scurf; and those various infectious eruptions which in Scotland are named the sibbens, and amongst the common people of this country pass under a variety of names.

THE itch is also effectually cured by this water.

IT has had remarkably good effects in the few cases of scrofula in which I have had opportunity of trying it.

IN

IN every case of worms in which I tried it, and they have not been few, it has destroyed them; those particularly called ascarides. In some of those cases the patients were in a state of high fever when they took this medicine. This is the only case in which I give this water whilst symptoms of fever are perceivable.

I HAVE also found this water to be very successful in the cure of the chronic rheumatism.

I HAVE thus, my dear Sir, noted down the particulars which you wished me to commit to writing for you, and am

Your very affectionate,

Humble Servant,

EDWARD KENNEY.

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THE method of preparing the medicinal sulphureous water from this strongly impregnated liquor is very simple, being as follows, viz.

MIX one ounce of the impregnated liquor with twelve ounces of cold water.

THIS

THIS medicinal water should be used with caution. Two ounces at a time may be, in general, a proper quantity for a person to begin with.

THE strongly impregnated liquor, and the medicinal water prepared from it, may be kept a long time unimpaired.

*Moviddy, Cork, January 28th, 1793.*

EDWARD KENNEY.